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Haig Openly Accuses a Top Reagan Aide Of Trying to Force Him Out of Cabinet

By KAREN ELLIOTT HOUSE
And GERALD F. SEIB

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WASHINGTON—After months of behind-the-scenes bickering, Secretary of State Alexander Haig has openly accused a top White House aide of running a "guerrilla campaign" to force him out of his job.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer yesterday said that Secretary Haig contends the warfare against him has been under way since the beginning of the administration and that Mr. Haig finds it "just mind-boggling." Mr. Fischer was confirming comments made by Secretary Haig over the weekend to columnist Jack Anderson, who published them yesterday.

The Secretary's accusation marks the first time a senior administration official has acknowledged publicly that there are deep rifts in Mr. Reagan's foreign policy team. In the past, Mr. Haig and others repeatedly have denied any serious power struggles and have tried to put a harmonious gloss on their private backbiting.

Neither Mr. Haig nor Mr. Fischer identified the top White House aide. But in recent weeks Haig aides have charged privately that Richard Allen, the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs, is out to get the Secretary. Some of these aides believe Mr. Allen is acting with the blessing of presidential counselor Edwin Meese, who has long considered Mr. Haig too ambitious and too independent to be a team player.

But the Associated Press quoted Mr. Allen as saying Secretary Haig had called Mr. Allen to say Mr. Haig didn't blame him. "It isn't I and Haig knows it isn't I," Mr. Allen said.

It isn't clear why Mr. Haig has chosen to have a public showdown with his White House foes just now. Perhaps he feels they are vulnerable because of their performance in the administration's effort to get congressional approval for selling "Awacs" radar planes to Saudi Arabia. Only last minute intervention by the President saved the sale.

To strengthen his position, Mr. Haig has carefully argued that the warfare against him is also damaging the President. Mr. Haig called the criticism of him "sabotage of the President" because it undermines the administration's ability to conduct foreign policy. That's the same argument Mr. Haig used when he persuaded the President a few months ago to dismiss Robert Neumann, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who also had criticized Mr. Haig.

President Reagan doesn't seem ready to choose between his two aides. Asked yesterday about the backbiting in his administration, Mr. Reagan tried to dismiss the rift as nothing but rumor.

"The only thing I can figure about stopping the backbiting is convincing all of you that there is absolutely no foundation to any of these rumors that keep getting so much circulation," the President said. "We have a good Secretary of State; I think the best we have had in a long time."

Only last Friday, the President denied reports that he intends to fire Mr. Allen. "Dick Allen is doing his job and we're all getting along fine and there's going to be no musical chairs being played," Mr. Reagan said.

But over the weekend the squabbling broke into the open. Mr. Anderson was preparing a column asserting that the President is unhappy with Mr. Haig's performance. An administration official familiar with the column tipped off Mr. Haig, who called Mr. Anderson late Saturday afternoon to protest.

Mr. Haig charged that the stories about presidential unhappiness with him were being spread by a top White House aide, who had been running a campaign against him for nine months. Mr. Haig then called the President to complain, and the President in turn called Mr. Anderson to express his support for Mr. Haig.

Mr. Fischer confirmed that sequence of events yesterday. But he denied that Mr. Haig said the campaign to discredit him involved officials of the CIA and the Senate, as Mr. Anderson had written.